Peter Howe

		195
1	1 Q. 2004?	
2	A. Yeah, possibly. I do	n't know, I don't remember
3	3 but it was, I believe it was -	_
4	Q. If you look back at G	uttridge 3, this layoff
5	5 list, are you saying that Popr	ik was laid off was
6	6 Poprik laid off before June 30	of 2004?
7	7 A. I have to get the exa	ct date. I forget when.
8	8 Most likely after that. I wou	ld guess it was after that.
9	Q. Do you know if he was	laid off before you became
10	0 the engineering manager in Aug	ust of 2004?
11	A. I believe it may have	happened after I became
12	2 engineering manager.	
13	Q. So sometime in late 2	004?
14	A. Or possibly early 200	5.
15	5 Q. Late 2004, early 2005	. Do you know his age?
16	A. No. I know he's youn	ger than me.
17	Q. Do you know if he was	younger than the age of
18	8 forty at the time he was laid	off?
19	9 A. No. I don't know tha	t.
20	Q. So today do you know	if he's over the age of
21	1 forty?	
22	2 A. No.	

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Do you know why he was laid off? Q.

Α. Lack of work.



program that is designed to provide entry level opportunities to minority engineering students." Do you see that?

A. Yes.

- Q. Do you agree with those two statements that I just read?
 - A. Yeah.
- Q. Okay. So you agree that BE&K has made a commitment to the future of their profession through the Inroads program to provide entry level opportunities to minority engineering students?
- A. I'd separate out the Inroads program. Maybe there's a different focus on the reason why we -- I wouldn't say it is necessarily to the profession. That's to a very worthwhile program.

I definitely agree that, you know, hiring college graduates, sure, has to be seen as somewhat a commitment to the profession. No doubt.

- Q. Okay. But has BE&K made a small number of hires of entry level people through the Inroads program?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Have they done that in the process department?
- A. No, unless Candice Yee has since I left. But when I was there, no.



Peter Howe

Q. This letter was written on --

A. At that point.

- Q. Please let me finish. This letter was written July 21, 2004. So at that point is it no?
 - A. No.

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- Q. Let's stay on that paragraph. "The work these people perform is obviously very simple, low level and low compensated. It is in no way analogous to the work performed by senior engineers such as Mr. Perez and it clearly would be insulting and inappropriate to claim that Mr. Perez should perform such functions." Do you see that?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Do you agree with those two statements?
 - A. Not necessarily.
 - Q. Why not necessarily?
- A. Because we do expect our engineers to be broadly skilled and we do expect our engineers to do low level and high level work, depending on availability of people and the work that's required to be done at the time.
- Q. Is there any other reason why you don't necessarily agree with those two statements?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. What other?

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A. Yes.

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Q. Okay. Have you ever had a situation where there was an employee who was working on general overhead, but was so outstanding of a performer or so specialized that you delayed laying them off?

A. Yes.

- Q. Can you tell me when that would happen or if you have a specific example even?
- A. There's been numerous cases where someone of the caliber of John Trexler or Bill Robinson that are highly regarded, top level employees, finish a job. We may ask them to work on business developments, may work on some filler projects or may, you know, just charge to BE&K waiting for the next project to come on.
 - Q. That's for outstanding employees?
- A. Outstanding employees. It is a business decision.
- Q. You named John Trexler. He is now -- do you know what his current title is?
 - A. Yes, manager of the process department.
 - Q. So he has your old job?
 - A. Yes. The job before my previous one.
 - Q. Okay. So he was subsequently promoted, then?
 - A. Yes.



- Peter Howe 267 1 Q. For outstanding employees it is too great of a business risk to lose, would that be correct? 2 That's correct. 3 Α. Now, you testified that Obed was an average 4 Q. performer or average engineer. Is that correct? 5 6 Α. Yes. 7 Q. Now, based on that, does that explain why you 8 could not continue to keep him on general overhead? 9 That's correct. Okay. Few more documents I want to get in, 10 Q. starting with D 3218. 11 (Howe Deposition Exhibit No. 13 marked for 12 13 identification.) BY MS. DIBIANCA: 14 15 Can you tell me what this is? Q. 16 This is e-mail from John Trexler to me, 17 indicating to me his forecast of the coming weeks and as 18 regards what he feels he can keep Obed busy with. 19 So would this have been when Obed was working on Q. 20 filler work at the end of 2003? 21
 - Α. Yes.

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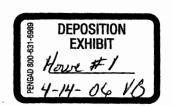
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- If we can flip to the project chart that was Q. admitted earlier --
 - Α. Howe 3.



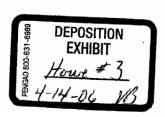
Process Department 11/1/03 Active Employees 11/03

Name	Date of Birth	Date of Hire	Position
Jack R. Baker	4/18/1946	6/19/1995	Senior Engineer
Gladys B. Delgado	4/14/1963	3/24/1997	Design Specialist
Edward C. Elener	3/29/1957	3/3/1997	Senior Engineer
Andrea J. Gerwig	8/15/1963	8/17/1992	Senior Engineer
Christopher Guttridge	8/22/1980	7/21/2003	Engineer II
Nasim Hassan	10/14/1942	7/18/1994	Principal Engineer
Jennifer Lin	2/20/1963	10/14/2002	Design Specialist
Allen B. Majors	4/5/1946	12/1/1994	Project Manager II
Juan Obed Perez	2/27/1949	3/1/2000	Senior Engineer
Yen Loan T. Pham	5/19/1968	6/28/2000	Engineer IV
Brian C. Preston	8/8/1951	1/2/1996	Principal Engineer
Richard C. Robbins	7/5/1940	1/2/1996	Design Specialist
William E. Robinson	5/27/1965	8/29/1994	Senior Engineer
Prabhakar Sharma	2/26/1952	3/14/2000	Principal Engineer
Shea N. Taylor	6/16/1975	6/29/1998	Senior Engineer
John G. Trexler	4/1/1955	5/26/1992	Principal Engineer
Michael Tweed	2/5/1961	3/6/2000	Engineer IV
Eugene G. Wright	2/22/1957	6/19/1995	Design Specialist
Robert W. Wunder	3/25/1963	4/7/1997	Design Specialist



BE&K Delaware -Projects Nov. 2003

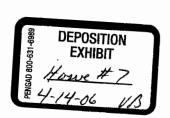
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2) DuPont	DCD3U001	Chambers Works Site Team	Sep-02	Jun-04	Beitler
					Taylor
3) DuPont	DSC32307	Spruance Small Projects	Sep-03	Ongoing	Poprik
	etc.				Wright
4) DuPont	DAA3T001	White Pigments Relief Device Team	Feb-03	Ongoing	Baker
	DAA3T002	· · · ·			Delgado
	DDE3T003		ļ		Gerwig
	DDE3T004	-	ļ		Guttridge
	etc.				Hassan
					Pham
5) DuPont	DEA2T087	Edgemoor: North End Spill Diversion	May-03	Apr-04	Elener
6) DuPont	DMF3COO3	Maniti: Intermediates / Past Expansion	Sep-03	Nov-03	Sharma
7) DuPont	DMF3C004	Maniti: Spherical Silver Expansion	Jul-03	Dec-03	Tweed
8) DuPont	DWC32001	Project Blue	May-03	Feb-04	Preston
9) DuPont	DCS3X001	PANDA	Jan-03	Dec-03	Majors
10)Motiva	5040602	Hydrocracker Corrosion Mitigation	Sep-03	Dec-03	Trexler
					Perez
11) Conoco- Phillips	5040612	Flare Network Modeling	Sep-03	Feb-04	Lin
12) Motiva	5040626	Gasifier Process Hazards Reviews	Nov-03	Dec-03	Wunder



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- I was the senior process engineer. I helped the other process engineers when they had questions. some of the reporting. I assigned work to other engineers. And I was one of the primary contacts with the client, the DuPont client.
 - Who was the DuPont client on that project? 0.
 - Α. Dan Dayton.
- You were the primary contact? Q.
- Well, Pete Howe or I at the time. 10 Α.
- 11 I apologize. I know you said this earlier, but Q. 12 what was the purpose of this DTT project?
 - The law requires documentation of relief devices and the Dupont Titanium Technologies Group was having us review every relief device in the plant and either verify its adequacy or have it changed until it became adequate.
 - Do you know if the project is still in existence? Q.
- 18 Α. Yes.
 - Are you presently working on it now? Q.
- 20 Α. Yes.
- 21 Q. Okay. Was this the first time you ever became a 22 process lead on a project?
- 23 Α. I believe so.
- 24 Q. Okay. Do they have different classifications of



engineers at BE&K?

2 A. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. Meaning like an engineer I, engineer II?
- 4 A. Yes.
 - Q. When you started at BE&K what was your classification?
- 7 A. I'm not sure, but I believe it was senior process 8 engineer.
 - Q. So in '95 you believe you started as a senior process engineer?
 - A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Did that classification change at any point?
- 13 A. No.
- Q. Today would you still consider yourself a senior process engineer?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Have you ever heard the term -- let me rephrase.
 - What is the difference between a large project and a small project?
- A. In my opinion a large project is a project where
 there are engineers from several disciplines working on a
 project and maybe several engineers from certain
 disciplines working on a project.
- 24 In my opinion a small project is a project



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where there are fewer people working on the project and an engineer on that project needs to handle responsibilities from multiple disciplines.

- Q. Do you think duration has anything to do with whether something is a large or small project?
 - A. That could as well.
 - Q. Typically how long would a large project last?
 - A. I would expect close to a year or longer.
 - Q. Typically how long would a small project last?
- 10 A. Less than a year.

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- Q. Does the cost of the project factor in as to whether it is large or small? I mean what the project is worth?
- A. There probably is a relationship, but I don't know that that has that great a significance. Well, for example, this DTT project, you know, we are working with relief devices that are relatively inexpensive compared to the plant as a whole, but the project will last five years and take a significant number of engineers, so I would call that a large project, even though the capital work is smaller than a lot of other projects.
- Q. So the DTT project that you are working on is a large project?
 - A. In my opinion.



Q. What did you mean when you said with respect to a small project the engineer needs to handle multiple disciplines on the project?

- A. If you are working with a large project, you will have your, possibly several process engineers, several mechanical engineers, a civil structural engineer, electrical engineers, instrumentation engineers. If you are working on a small project an engineer would be expected to handle process work, mechanical work, instrumentation work, that on a large project would be handled by someone else.
- Q. Have you ever had to do that where you had to handle multiple disciplines on one particular project?
 - A. I don't remember anything specifically.
- Q. Would you say your discipline is process engineering?
- 17 A. Yes.

- Q. Okay. But you don't recall any specific time when you had to handle multiple disciplines on a small project?
- A. No.
 - Q. Do you know if other BE&K process department engineers have ever had to handle multiple disciplines on a small project?



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- A. Yes. I know years ago there was a Small Projects

 Group.

 Q. Who was on that Small Projects Group, if you can
- Q. Who was on that Small Projects Group, if you can recall?
 - A. I can remember one name and that's John Gwinn.
- Q. Do you recall how many people approximately were on this Small Projects Group?
 - A. No. I was never involved with it and so my only contact with it was from people who said that -- who said he had been working in that group.
 - Q. Do you know what this group was doing?
- 12 A. No, I don't.
- Q. So you don't know if they were engineers who were handling multiple disciplines on a particular small project?
 - A. I imagined that was what it was, but that was 10 years ago and any conversation I had I have forgotten.
 - Q. Does John Gwinn still work for BE&K?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. BE&K and not Allstates?
- A. As far as I know he works for BE&K. He's at the Chambers Works plant, the DuPont Chambers Works plant.
 - Q. Do you know which department he's in?
 - A. No. I know at one time he was in the

